

VZCZCXRO0462  
PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN RUEHLZ  
RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHAH #1388 2951336  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 211336Z OCT 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1745  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4425  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2237  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2102  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2673  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2994

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001388

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TEN THOUSAND TONS OF U.S. CHICKEN IMPORTED INTO  
TURKMENISTAN

REF: A. ASHGABAT 1086

[1](#)B. ASHGABAT 0048

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

[1](#)2. (SBU) On August 19, the embassy's economic officer received an urgent phone call from Chief of the International Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations Wepa Garryev, with a request to supply the Ministry a list of U.S. chicken leg producers (Ref A). Garryev said Turkmenistan intends to make a large purchase of chicken legs in the very near future. Turkmenistan had banned importing U.S. chicken due to protectionism (Ref B), but began importing it again in January 2008.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Garryev told post on October 15 that thanks to the Embassy's assistance, the Ministry was able to contact Tyson Foods and Pilgrims Pride and conclude contracts. The Ministry purchased 10,000 tons of chicken quarters for around \$19 million (the amount includes logistics and customs clearance fees). The chicken is now available at Turkmenistan's markets just in time for the Independence Day celebration (October 27-28) at a minimum price of 34,000 manats per kilogram.

[1](#)4. (SBU) COMMENT: Turkmen ministries continue to make direct contact with the Embassy, which is a change that post welcomes. The Turkmen government clearly views American chicken as a desirable product to import. END COMMENT.  
CURRAN